

FIG. 1

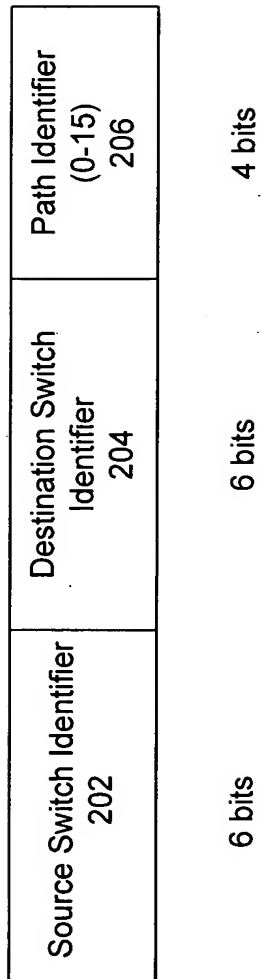


FIG. 2

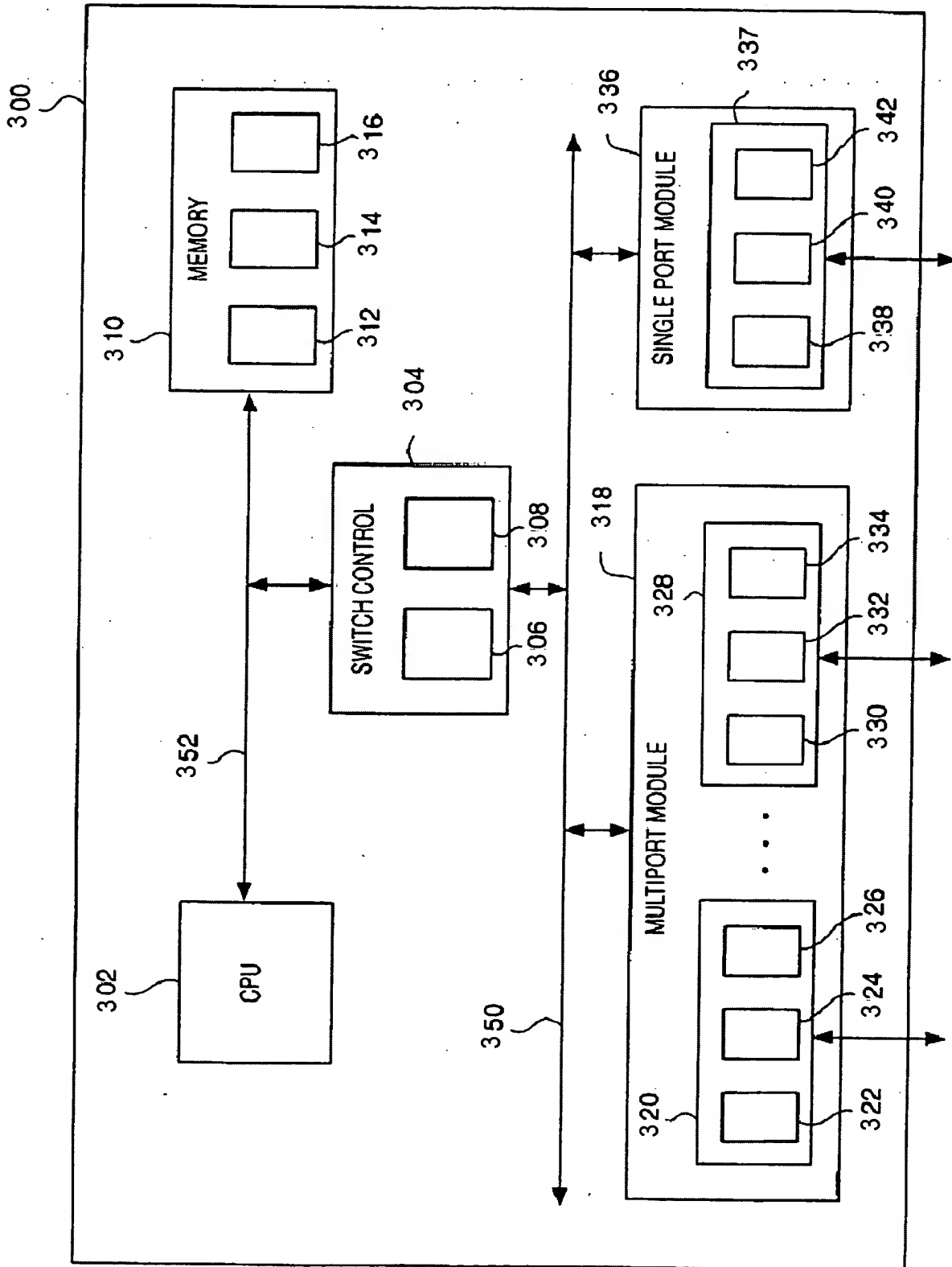


FIG. 3

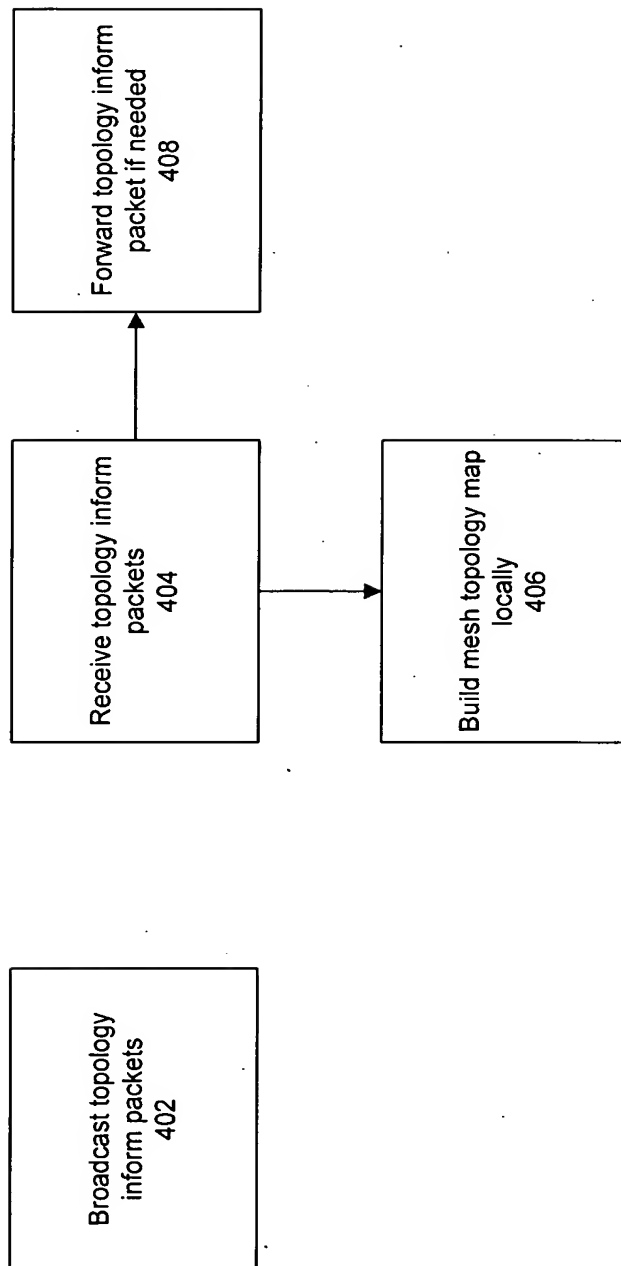


FIG. 4A

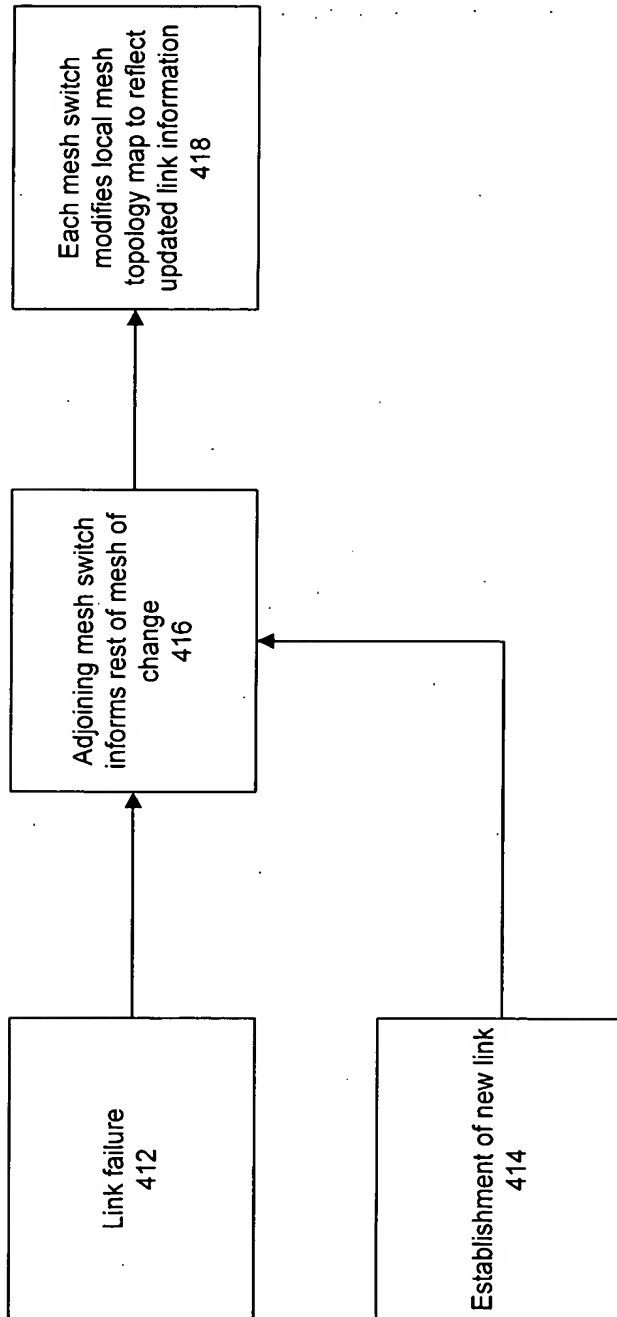


FIG. 4B

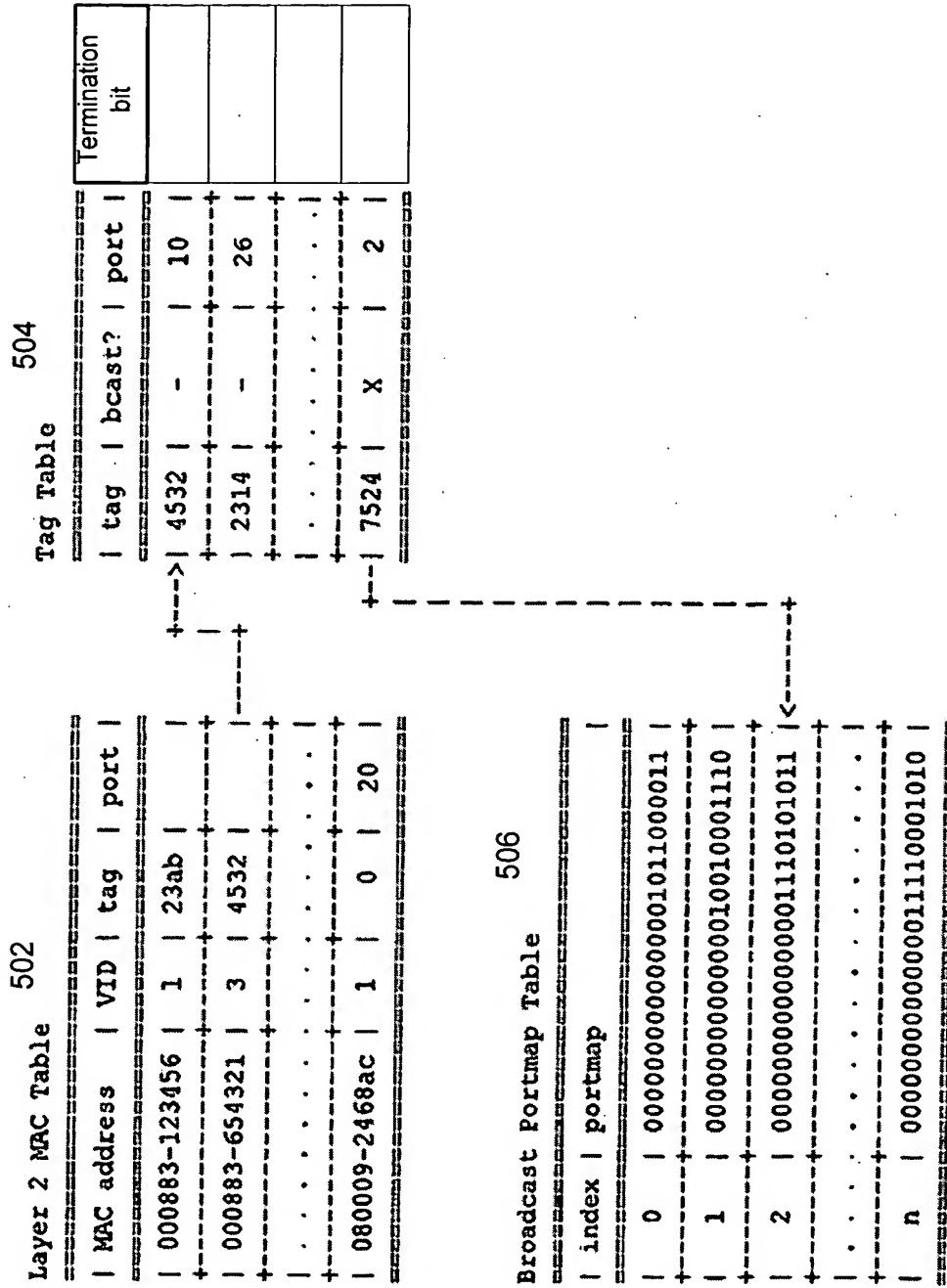


FIG. 5

Layer 2 MAC Table 602					Switch Table 604				
MAC address	VID	switch	port		switch	start idx	num		
000883-123456	1	12	10	+	1	0	3	+	
000883-654321	3	1	16	+	2	3	3	+	
...	...	...	...	+	3	5	3	+	
080009-2468ac	1	4	20	+	4	23	15	+	
				+	...	...	...	+	
				+	12	168	15	+	

To hash algorithm 606

FIG. 6A

From entry in  
 Switch Table  
 604

Tag Table		608	
	tag	bcast?	retag   port
switch 1's tags	2332	-	-   10   <--+
	2314	-	-   78   <--+
	2309	-	-   23   <--+
switch 2's tags	1904	-	-   5
	1924	-	-   7
	1974	-	-   1
switch n's tags	.	.	.
	7524	X	-   13

hash 606 | <--+

algorithm |

FIG. 6B

Tag	Num Hops	Links
0xB201	3	10, 100
0xB202	4	100
0xB203	2	1000
0xB204	5	1000, 100

FIG. 7

Tag Table 802

Tag Table			
tag	bcast?	retag	port
B203	-	-	78
B201	-	-	10
B203	-	-	78
B203	-	-	78
B201	-	-	10
B202	-	-	23
B203	-	-	78
B201	-	-	10
B204	-	-	13
B202	-	-	23

switch 1's tags

FIG. 8

902

Layer 2 MAC Table

MAC address	VID	switch	priority	port
000883-123456	1	1	2	10
000883-654321	3	3	1	16
...	...	...	...	...
080009-2468ac	1	4	2	20

904

Switch Table

switch	priority	start idx	num
1	3	0	1
1	2	1	2
1	1	3	2
2	3	5	2
2	2	7	2
2	1	9	2
...	...	...	...
12	1	168	5

To hash  
algorithm  
906

FIG. 9A

From entry in  
 Switch Table  
 904

Tag Table					908	
tag	bcast?	retag	port			
2332	-	-	10	switch 1 high priority		
2314	-	-	78			
2309	-	-	23	switch 1 medium priority		
1904	-	-	5	switch 1 low priority		
1957	-	-	12			
1924	-	-	7	switch 2 high priority		
1974	-	-	1			
...	...	...	...			
7524	X	-	13			

FIG. 9B